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Hollars

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(54) **MANUAL PUMP ALSO CAPABLE OF DISPENSING HIGH PRESSURE COMPRESSED GAS CARTRIDGES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 299 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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F04B 53/10 (2006.01)
F04B 33/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***F04B 53/10*** (2013.01); ***F04B 33/005*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC .. F04B 39/0016; F04B 39/1033; F04B 33/00; F04B 33/005; F04B 53/10
See application file for complete search history.

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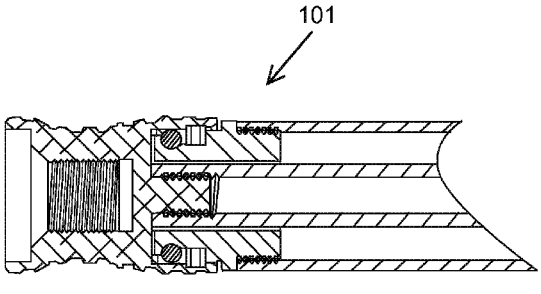
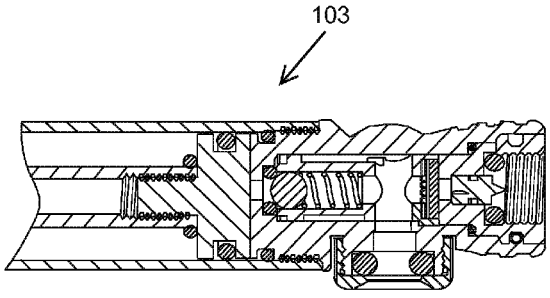
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a versatile manually-actuated barrel style pump also capable of controllably dispensing a compressed gas cartridge. The current invention addresses the shortcomings of the prior art dual function pumps available providing the user with a more versatile dual function barrel pump integrated with a compressed gas cartridge dispenser as well as addresses the deficiencies from the prior art dual function pumps. Compressed gas cartridge storage methods that incorporate with the pump and user ergonomics and increased user safety will also become evident.

10 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets





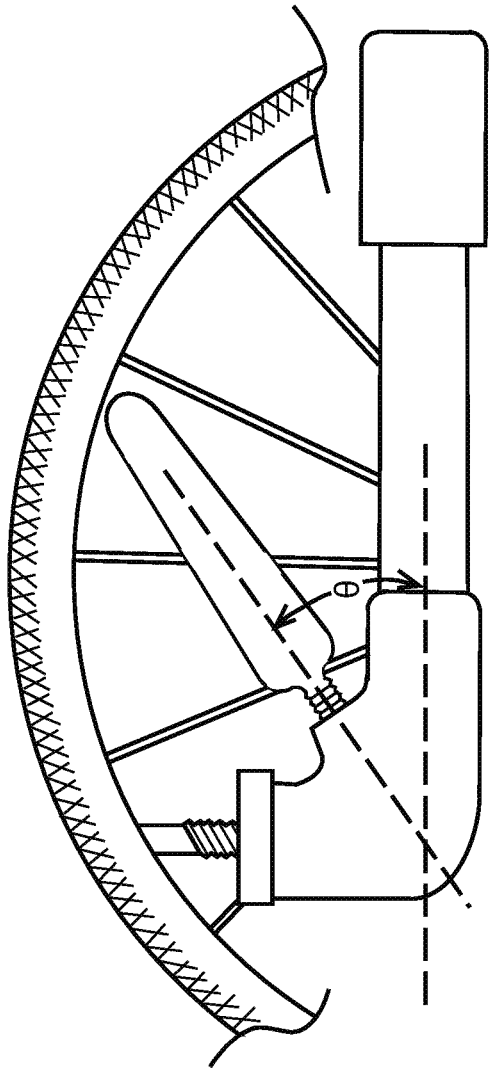


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

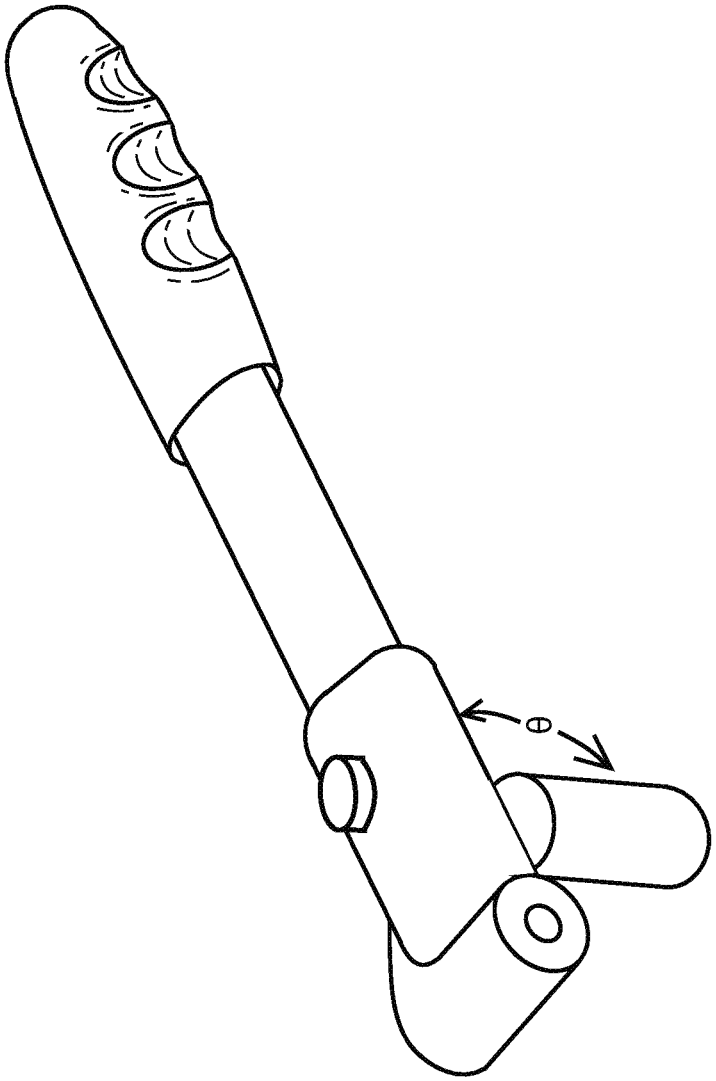


FIG. 2
PRIOR ART

FIG. 3

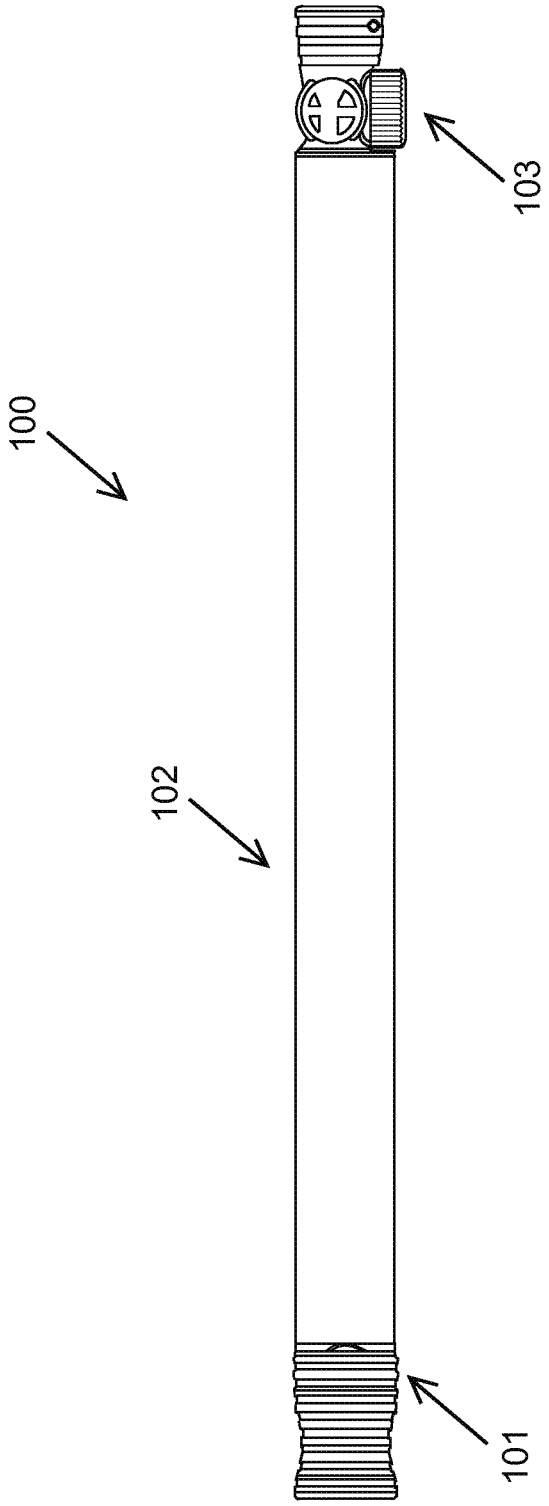
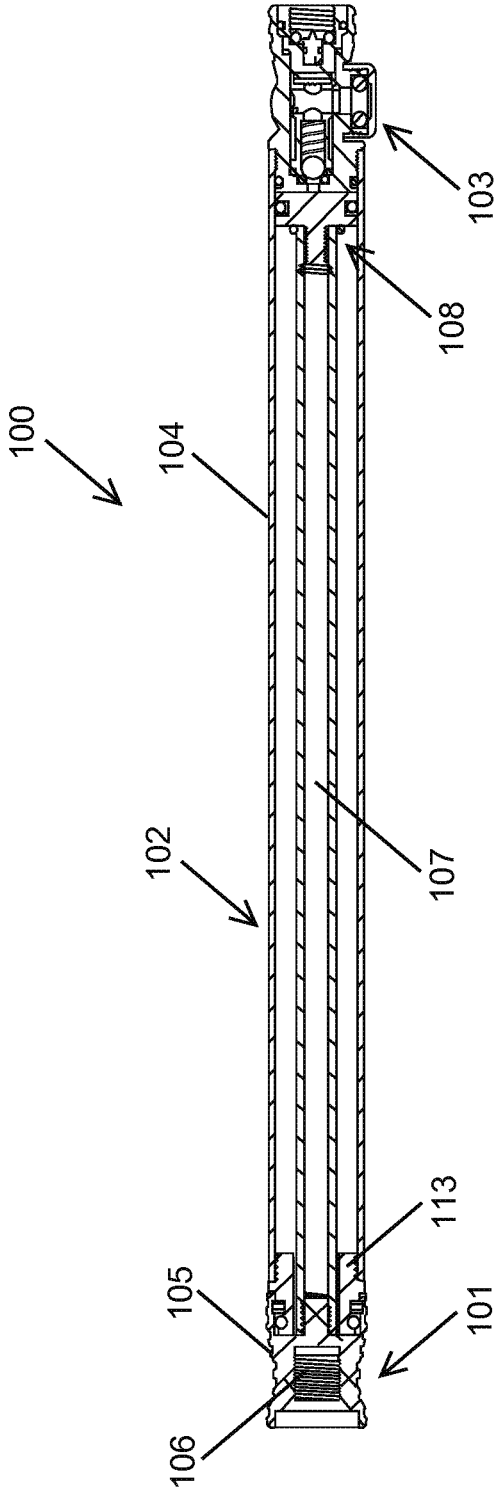


FIG. 4



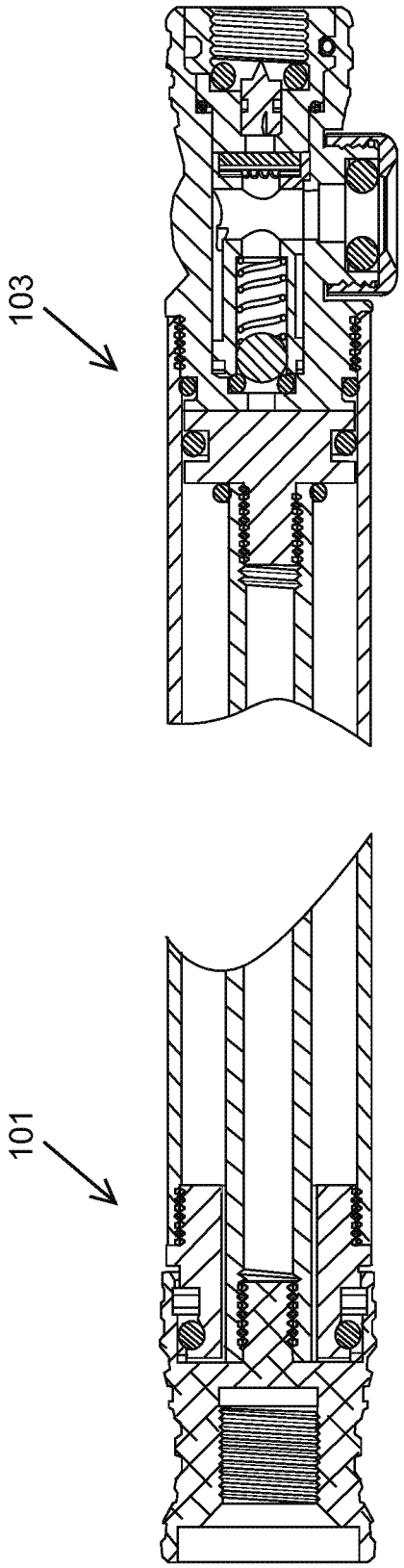


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

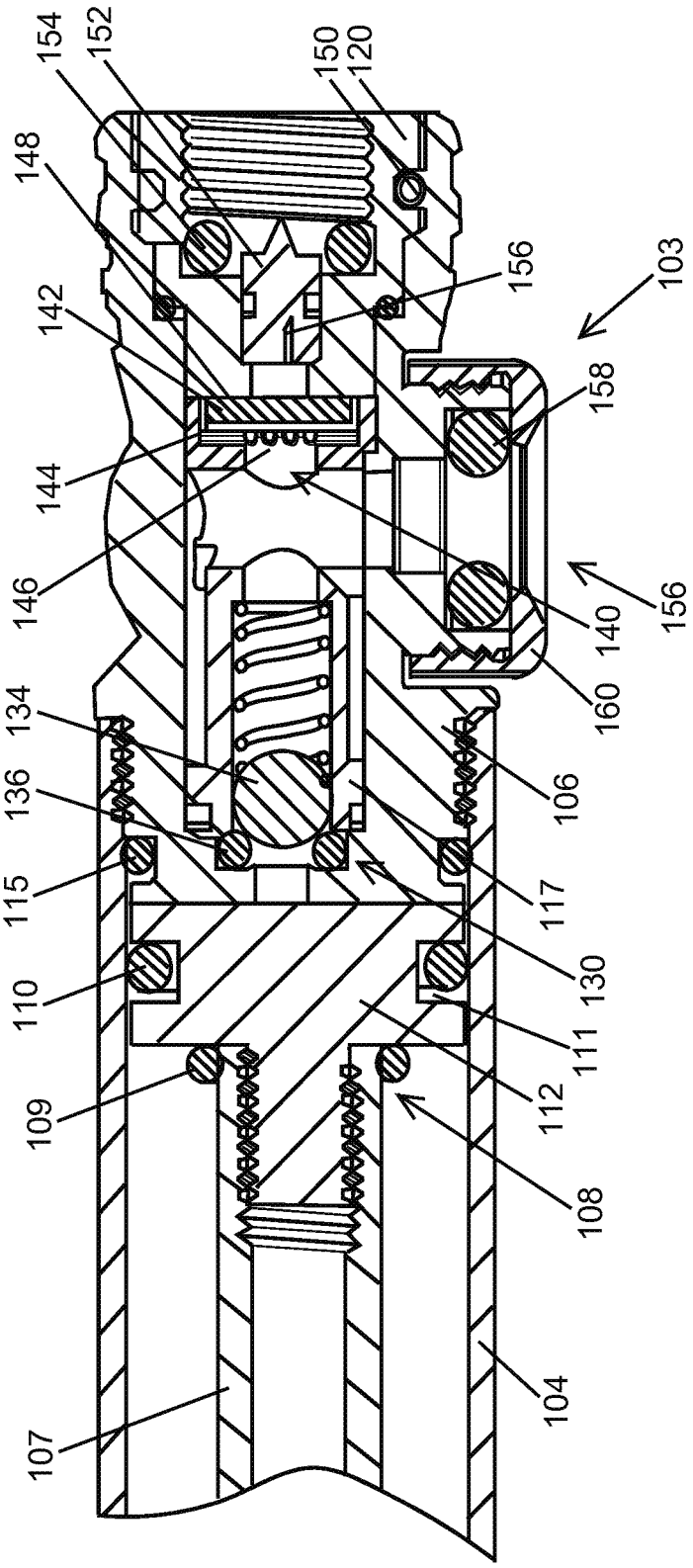

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FIG. 7B

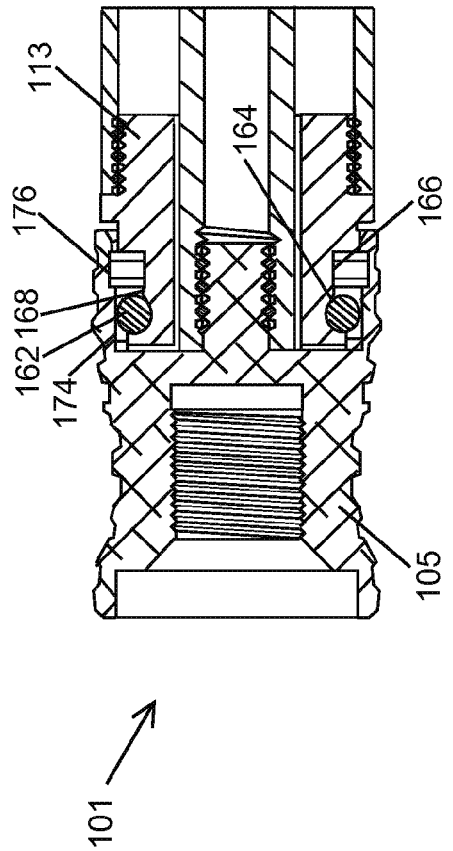


FIG. 7C

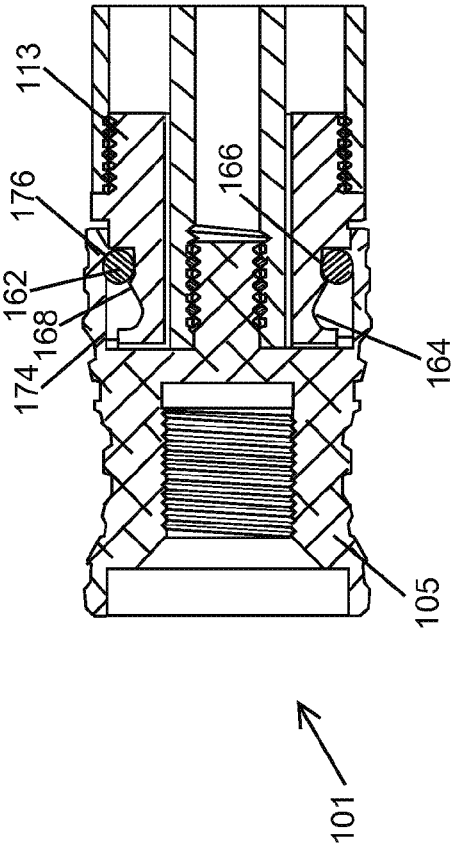


FIG. 7A

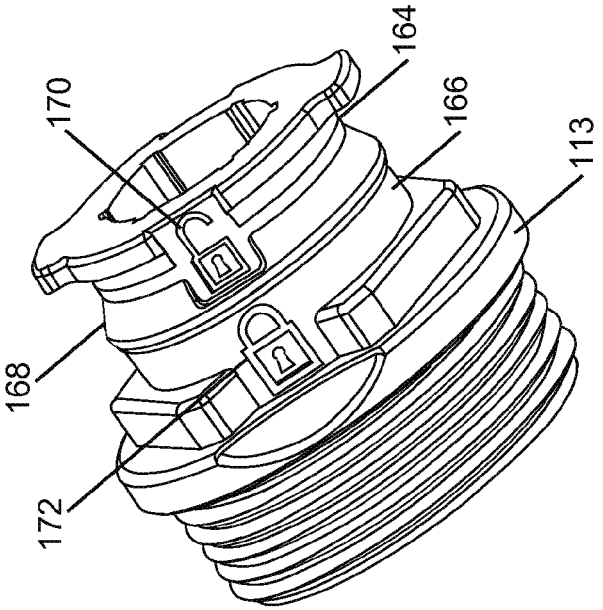


FIG. 8A

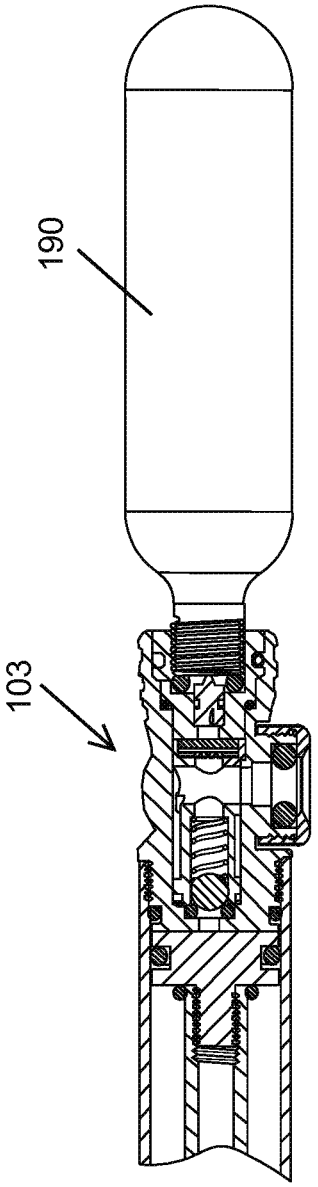
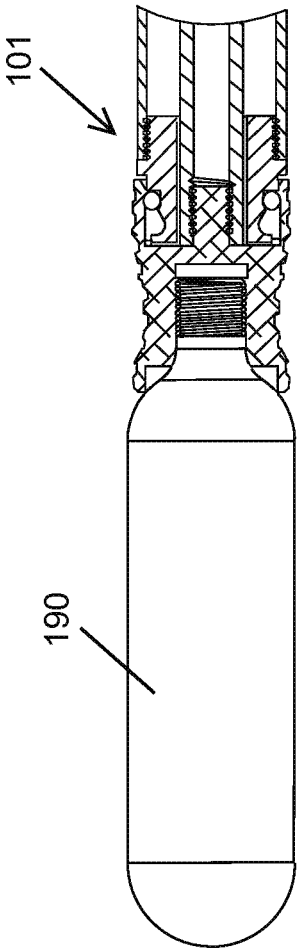


FIG. 8B



MANUAL PUMP ALSO CAPABLE OF DISPENSING HIGH PRESSURE COMPRESSED GAS CARTRIDGES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation Patent Application which claims priority form U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application having Ser. No. 11/480,636, filed on Jul. 5, 2006, and which hereby is incorporated by reference.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Not applicable.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a versatile manually-actuated barrel style pump also capable of controllably dispensing a compressed gas cartridge.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cylindrical, barrel style pumps have been in use for decades. Some barrel pumps are long and small in diameter therefore capable of pumping to a high pressure. Other barrel pumps are large in diameter and can be found in both long and short versions. Though lower pressure can be achieved with the larger diameter pumps, a greater volume of air can be moved with each pump stroke.

Circa 1990, compressed gas cartridge dispensers began to gain popularity. Out of all applications, one industry in particular that gained popularity with improved, controllable compressed gas cartridge dispensers was the bicycle industry. The advent of controllable compressed gas dispensers finally allowed a cyclist with a flat tire to dispense all or a portion of a high pressure gas cartridge with confidence and for example, prevents tire over-inflation when dispensing a compressed gas cartridge leaving the option to save the unused compressed gas for later use.

Just recently, two companies have introduced barrel pumps featuring an integrated compressed gas cartridge dispensing means in the same pump. This allows the user to manually pump air or controllably dispense a compressed gas cartridge utilizing one piece of hardware.

A company called SAPO produces one such barrel pump also capable of dispensing a compressed gas cartridge. FIG. **1** PRIOR ART conceptually illustrates a side view of the SAPO dual function pump attached to a tire inflation stem. Manual actuation is performed in a linear motion much like most barrel pumps that utilize a sealed piston within the barrel to displace air. A compressed gas cartridge threadably attaches to the dispensing end of the barrel pump at an angle approximately thirty degrees off the barrel axis, designated by the Greek symbol Theta (θ).

Being that the compressed gas cartridge protrudes at an angle θ from the pump barrel axis, it would be difficult for one to mount the barrel pump on a frame such as on a bicycle frame while a cartridge is attached to the pump. The protruding compressed gas cartridge can easily create mounting interference problems and could negatively get in a rider's way. Also, the spokes on a bicycle wheel can interfere with the user's hands during activation because of limited working space, and additionally, the SAPO dual function pump offers no compressed gas cartridge storage means other than in its threaded dispensing housing. The design lends to mounting the barrel pump on a frame and inconveniently storing both full and consumed compressed gas cartridges somewhere else, such as in a saddle bag or in a rider's jersey pocket.

Additionally, the SAPO barrel pump having the compressed gas cartridge mount at an acute angle θ off axis from the barrel potentially aligns the cartridge to the user, particularly the user's head when oriented as shown in FIG. **1** PRIOR ART. Should the user rapidly unthread the cartridge from the dispenser, the cartridge could become a dangerous projectile lined up with the user's face or neck. Sometimes, when compressed gas cartridges, particularly those filled with liquefied carbon dioxide are dispensed with the outlet pointing down, form solid frozen carbon dioxide at the cartridge exit hole. The momentary accumulation of solid frozen carbon dioxide at the exit hole can temporarily block the flow of high pressure gas, duping the user to believe that the compressed gas cartridge is empty. A short time later, the solid flow blocking accumulation thaws and once again high pressure gas flows from the cartridge exit hole, effectively turning a compressed gas cartridge into a projectile. The entire cycle of free flow, flow stopping frozen accumulation, and thaw process thus allowing flow once again can occur over moments, potentially corresponding to the amount of time it would take for a user to unthread a compressed gas cartridge from the SAPO pump now capable of becoming a projectile aimed at the user's head.

A company called SKS Metaplast GmbH (hereinafter called SKS) produces another such barrel pump also capable of dispensing a compressed gas cartridge. FIG. **2** PRIOR ART conceptually illustrates the SKS dual function pump. Manual actuation is performed in a linear motion much like most barrel pumps utilizing a sealed piston within the barrel to displace air. A compressed gas cartridge threadably attaches to the dispensing end of the barrel pump at ninety degrees off the barrel axis, designated by the Greek symbol Sigma (σ).

Being that the compressed gas cartridge on the SKS dual function barrel pump protrudes at a ninety degree angle σ from the pump barrel axis, it would be difficult for one to mount the barrel pump on a frame such as on a bicycle frame while a cartridge is attached to the pump. The protruding compressed gas cartridge would cause interference problems with mounting and could annoyingly or unsafely get in a rider's way. Additionally, the SKS dual function pump offers no compressed gas cartridge storage means other than in its threaded dispensing housing. The design lends to mounting the barrel pump on a frame and inconveniently storing both full and consumed compressed gas cartridges somewhere else, such as in a saddle bag or in a rider's jersey pocket.

Additionally, the SKS barrel pump having the compressed gas cartridge mount at a perpendicular angle σ off axis from the barrel aligns the cartridge towards a tire sidewall. Opposite the compressed gas cartridge mounting location is a flow actuation valve that also protrudes perpendicular to the barrel pump axis and can be seen in FIG. **2** PRIOR ART. In use, both the compressed gas cartridge and the flow actuation valve are located up against the spokes of a bicycle wheel and/or tire sidewall thus providing limited working space for a user's hands to dispense the compressed gas cartridge.

The current invention addresses the shortcomings of the prior art dual function pumps available providing the user with a more versatile dual function barrel pump integrated with a compressed gas cartridge dispenser.

The following embodiments will describe the present invention as well as exemplify the preferred embodiment. Additionally, with the aid of figures and an understanding of the prior-art, one having ordinary skill in the art will be able to understand and appreciate the gained utility from the embodiments to follow.

OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of the present invention will be presented in the following paragraphs followed by a thorough disclosure of each aspect in the accompanying embodiments in the DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

In light of the above-mentioned limitations, it is therefore an object of the present invention to exemplify a dual function pump that allows for increased operator safety.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a dual function barrel pump that allows the operator to easily and controllably dispense a compressed gas cartridge with no interference problems.

Another object of the present invention is to teach a method of axially storing a compressed gas cartridge joined with a barrel pump so that the pump remains slim, allowing easy stow on a frame or in a bag.

Additionally, the ability to store a compressed gas cartridge distally on each end of the barrel pump is an objective of the present invention.

Another object of the present invention is to minimize the parts count thus allowing for simplified, easy to manufacture assembly, reducing labor cost, yielding an affordable yet reliable product.

While maintaining the causative principle of the invention, it is another object of the present invention to have similar components manufactured from machined, molded, cast, or other manufacturing method to suit the intended dual function barrel pump specification.

In some embodiments of the invention, another object of the present invention is to allow a compressed gas cartridge to be used as all or part of a functional manual pumping handle.

Additionally, an object of the present invention is to teach dual function barrel pumps capable of manual pumping to high pressures or lower pressures, dictated by the size of the barrel.

Another object of the present invention is to teach a simple method of retaining and sealing a pumping handle to the pump barrel.

Further objects and advantages will become apparent in the following paragraphs. Solely and in combination, the above objects and advantages will be illustrated in the exemplary figures and accompanying embodiments to follow,

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention addresses the deficiencies from the prior art dual function pumps. It will teach compressed gas cartridge storage methods that incorporate with the pump. Also, user ergonomics and increased user safety will also become evident.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The figures are exemplary of different embodiments of the present invention. Each illustration conveys the invention and is not to be considered as limiting, rather, exemplary to the scope and causative principle of the present invention. Like components in the figures share identical numbering.

FIG. **1** PRIOR ART illustrates a side view of a dual function barrel pump attached to a fire valve stem; the pump is made by SAPO and is capable of manual pumping as well as dispensing a compressed gas cartridge;

FIG. **2** PRIOR ART illustrates an isometric view of a dual function barrel pump made by SFAS, and capable of manual pumping as well as dispensing a compressed gas cartridge;

FIG. **3** illustrates a side view of an exemplary dual function barrel pump also capable of dispensing a compressed gas cartridge, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. **4** illustrates a cross-sectioned side view of the exemplary dual function barrel pump from FIG. **3**, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. **5** illustrates an enlarged cross-sectioned side view of the end details from FIG. **4** while omitting the middle barrel section;

FIG. **6** illustrates an enlarged cross-sectioned side view of an exemplary inflation head, introduced from prior FIGS.;

FIG. **7**A illustrates an isometric view of an exemplary guide cap detailing lock and sealing features, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **7**B illustrates a side cross-sectional view of a manual handle assembly in an unlocked and unsealed position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **7**C illustrates a side cross-sectional view of a manual handle assembly in a locked and sealed position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **8**A illustrates an exemplary enlarged view of an inflation head threaded into a partial cross-sectioned side view of an inflation head, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **8**B illustrates an exemplary enlarged view of a manual handle assembly threadably engaged with a compressed gas cartridge for stow, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following paragraphs will detail several modes including the best mode of the present invention. The exemplary figures and description of the invention as it is exemplified in each figure is representative of the current invention and the scope of the invention disclosure is not intended to be limited by the exemplary teachings. One skilled in the pertinent art realizes that the embodiments to follow may reasonably be combined and/or modified without deviating from the intended spirit of the present invention. Like physical structure in different figures share the same identifying numbers.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, FIG. **3** illustrates a side view of an exemplary dual function barrel pump **100** also capable of dispensing a compressed gas cartridge. Barrel pump **100** comprises a barrel manual handle assembly **101**, a barrel section **102**, and an inflation head **103**. Barrel section **102** and inflation head **103** are rigidly attached and fluidly connected. Manual handle assembly **101** comprises additional components that will be detailed in FIG. **4**.

FIG. **4** illustrates a cross-sectioned side view of the exemplary dual function barrel pump **100** from FIG, **3**, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. The components of manual handle assembly **101** can be seen in cross-section and include: A hand grip **105**, a pump rod **107**, and a piston assembly **108**. Hand grip **105** has an internally threaded feature and conical entry that will allow a compressed gas cartridge having a threaded neck portion to be axially stored in hand grip **105**. Addition of a compressed gas cartridge (shown in FIG. **8**B) into hand grip **105** will allow the

user to hold a larger hand grip. A guide cap **113** threads into the end of barrel section **102** and provides a guide for pump rod **107** as well as an air inlet when manual handle assembly **100** is manually actuated in an outward stroke, A tubular barrel **104** houses part of handle assembly **101**. Inflation head **103** comprises a plurality of components and will be detailed in enlarged view in FIGS. to follow.

FIG. **5** illustrates an enlarged cross-sectioned side view of manual handle assembly **101** and inflation head **103** from FIG. **4** while omitting most of barrel section **102**.

FIG. **6** illustrates an enlarged cross-sectioned side view of an exemplary inflation head **103**, in accordance with a functional embodiment of the present invention. Piston assembly **108** can finally be seen with the enlarged clarity in this FIG. and includes a top-out cushion **109** and a piston seal **110** that situates within a seal retaining groove **111** as a feature in a piston **112**. Pump rod **107** threadably attaches to piston **112**. A dispensing body **106** is fluidly sealed to barrel **104** by a barrel seal **115**.

Contained within dispensing body **106** are a check body **117** and a lance housing **120**. Embodied as an in-line assembly, dispensing body **106** has a first one-way flow valve **130** normally in the closed position by a spring **132** biasing a rigid sphere **134** against a first check seal **136**. Also embodied as an in-line assembly, dispensing body **106** has a second one-way flow valve **140** fluidly connecting check body **117** to lance housing **120**. Second one-way flow valve **140** comprises a second check seal **142** loosely situated in a second seal nest **144**. An array of radially oriented flow vents **146** prevent second check seal **142** from fluidly sealing gas flow incoming from lance housing **120**, and a sealing face **148** prevents second check seal **142** from fluidly leaking gas flow outgoing to lance housing **120** from within dispensing body **106**.

Lance housing **120** from FIG. **6** fits within dispensing body **106** and is retained in position by a securing pin **150**, exemplified as a roll pin. A puncture lance **152** is situated concentrically within the inner bore of lance housing **120** by an interference fit and is concentrically sealed by a lance seal **154**. A lance gas path **156** allows for fluid connection between lance housing, into dispensing body **106**. FIG. **8**A will illustrate a compressed gas cartridge attached to inflation head **103**.

A fluid outlet **156** fluidly connects with dispensing body **106** and comprises an outlet seal **158** and an outlet seal keeper **160**. A variety of similar fluid outlets are common in the current art including versions that attach to either Presta or Schraeder valves or capable of adapting to both.

FIG. **7**A illustrates an enlarged isometric view of guide cap **113**, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As mentioned as one of the objects and advantages, hand grip **105** locking and sealing means is accomplished through a simple, yet novel locking system. An unlock groove **164** is shown having a visual unlock symbol **170** resembling a padlock in an open position, thereby understandable by people of any language. A lock groove **166** is shown having a visual lock symbol **172** resembling a padlock in a closed position, thereby understandable by people of any language. Separating visual unlock symbol **170** and visual lock symbol **172** is a lock ridge **168**.

FIG. **7**B illustrates a side cross-sectional view of manual handle assembly **101** in an unlocked position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. An elastomer ring **162** is residing in unlock groove **164** and not capable of physically dragging on an inside surface **174** of hand grip **105** because unlock groove **164** has a small enough diameter. A user can move freely move hand grip **105** to and from guide cap **113** with no dragging of elastomer ring **162**.

A user actuates the locking and sealing means by separating hand grip **105** away from guide cap **113** and sliding elastomer ring **162** over lock ridge **168** and into lock groove **166**. Upon closing hand grip **105** with guide cap **113**, elastomer ring **162** engages with a recessed groove **176** that is incorporated into an inner diameter on hand grip **105**. FIG. **7**C illustrates manual handle assembly **101** in a locked and sealed position. Dirt, water, etc, will stay out of the pump and hand grip **105** will not migrate from its locked position until a user wants it separated. Additionally, even with a compressed gas cartridge threaded into hand grip **105** for stow (exemplified in FIG. **8**B), the locking and sealing system will dill retain manual handle assembly **101** together.

Upon a user wanting hand grip **105** separated from guide cap **113**, a gentle tug allows component separation as well as drags elastomer ring **162** over lock ridge **168** to reside in unlock groove **164**. A user can freely use the manual pumping feature without elastomer ring interfering with the pumping action.

FIG. **8**A illustrates a compressed gas cartridge **190** threadably engaged with inflation head **103**. As is common in the art, the embodied method of dispensing compressed gas cartridge **190** is to completely thread together and then allow controlled gas release by slightly unthreading the threaded connection.

FIG. **8**B illustrates a compressed gas cartridge **190** threadably engaged with manual handle assembly **101**. Stowed compressed gas cartridge **190** threadably engages with internal threads in hand grip **105**. A user can easily mount dual function barrel pump **102** to a frame or insert into a bag while additionally maintaining one or more compressed gas cartridges connected to the pump.

One skilled in the art of manual air pumping and dispensing compressed gas cartridges realizes that a handful of methods and hardware can literally be interchanged to accomplish identical or substantially similar functions without drifting from the causative principle of the representative teachings. According to the embodiments, each example having unique advantages and drawbacks in comparison to the other exemplified designs.

That said, to the extent that such modifications and variations do not depart from the spirit of the invention, they are intended to be included within the scope thereof which is limited only by a fair assessment of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A barrel style pump, comprising:

a tubular barrel comprising a first end, a second end, and a barrel axis extending between said first end of said tubular barrel and said second end of said tubular barrel;

a manual pump handle assembly disposed on the first end of said tubular barrel, said manual pump handle assembly comprising a hand grip, a piston, and connecting rod;

a dispensing head comprising an outlet port, wherein said dispensing head is disposed on the second end of said tubular barrel, wherein said dispensing head comprises a threaded socket;

a lance housing disposed within said dispensing head, said lance housing formed to include an inner bore, said lance housing comprising a puncture lance disposed concentrically within said inner bore, a lance seal, and a lance gas path fluid connecting said lance housing and said dispensing head;

a first one-way valve disposed within said dispensing head between said lance housing and said outlet port;

a second one-way valve disposed within said dispensing head between said second end of said tubular barrel and said outlet port;

wherein the second one-way valve is coaxial with the barrel axis.

2. The barrel style pump of claim **1**, wherein the first one-way valve is coaxial with the barrel axis.

3. The barrel style pump of claim **1**, wherein:

said outlet port can fluidly adapt to a tire valve.

4. The barrel style pump of claim **1**, wherein:

said manual pump handle assembly is connected to said first end of said tubular barrel;

said manual pump handle comprises a threaded socket.

5. The barrel style pump of claim **4**, wherein:

said dispensing head is attached to said second end of said tubular barrel; and

said dispensing head comprises a threaded lance housing.

6. A barrel style pump, comprising:

a tubular barrel comprising a first end, a second end, and a barrel axis extending between said first end of said tubular barrel and said second end of said tubular barrel;

a manual pump handle assembly disposed on the first end of said tubular barrel, said manual pump handle assembly comprising a hand grip, a piston, and connecting rod, wherein said manual pump handle comprises a threaded socket;

a dispensing head comprising an outlet port, wherein said dispensing head is disposed on the second end of said tubular barrel, wherein said dispensing head is threadedly formed to axially attach a compressed gas cartridge thereto;

a lance housing disposed within said dispensing head, said lance housing formed to include an inner bore, said lance housing comprising a puncture lance disposed concentrically within said inner bore, a lance seal, and a lance gas path fluid connecting said lance housing and said dispensing head;

a first one-way valve disposed within said dispensing head between said lance housing and said outlet port;

a second one-way valve disposed within said dispensing head between said second end of said tubular barrel and said outlet port;

wherein the second one-way valve is coaxial with the barrel axis.

7. The barrel style pump of claim **6**, wherein the first one-way valve is coaxial with the barrel axis.

8. The barrel style pump of claim **6**, wherein said outlet port can fluidly adapt to a tire valve.

9. The barrel style pump of claim **6**, wherein said manual pump handle assembly is connected to said first end of said tubular barrel.

10. The barrel style pump of claim **9**, wherein:

said dispensing head is attached to said second end of said tubular barrel;

said dispensing head comprises a threaded lance housing; and

wherein said dispensing head comprises a threaded socket.

* * * * *